



Flow Chart for Limit Submittal Process

Pre-submittal Guidance

Party contacts NMFS regarding:

- If their program needs ESA coverage;
- How to scope it; and
- Whether to proceed under section 7, 10, or one of the 4(d) limits.

ESA coverage not needed

Program referred to §7 or §10 process

Program rolled into a larger (e.g., state wide) 4(d) submittal.

Consideration of program put on hold pending further development of relevant scientific understanding, or completion of higher-priority evaluation.

Program may qualify under a 4(d) limit. Party develops submittal package. Shares draft products with assigned NMFS staff. Incorporates NMFS recommendations.

Submittal is not sufficient.

Submittal Process

Submittal received by NMFS.

Notice to relevant Federal/ Tribal parties.

Federal Register Notice of package for review and proposed limit (30 day comment period*).

NMFS shares comments received with applicant, evaluates program, and analyzes biological impacts of program.

Section 7, if needed

Program sent back to entity for major modification.

Program accepted, as proposed or with minor modifications.

Program as proposed or with minor modifications, is not approved

* Refer to individual limits submittal process to determine if notification in *Federal Register* is required.